

Name: _____

Due: 4/30, 5/01

Independent Reading Project Options

Directions: choose any **one** of the following final project options to express your understanding of the book that you chose for independent reading. This project may be completed with your reading partner or individually.

Written Projects

All written responses should be at least two pages (double-spaced typed in Times 12 font) long and should include references to **at least three** specific details from your book. Put your name and the number of the option you chose at the top of your writing. Some of these projects, such as the character journal and newspaper article, may also include visual elements.

These are not formal essay topics: you may use the word “I” when you write and write from a personal perspective. However, you must focus your writing on specific details from the book and you should use language that is appropriate for a school assignment (that means not using vague, weak words like “stuff” or informal words like “gonna”).

1. **What is the book saying about people or the world?** Refer to specific situations, characters, or other literary elements in the book to support your answer. In addition to supporting details, include a quote from at least one passage in the book that reflects the theme you have identified. Be sure to include the page number of your quote. Here are a few topics that are often addressed by literary works: acceptance, alienation, betrayal, choices, conformity, courage, cowardice, fear, friendship, fate, individuality, loyalty, relationships, responsibility, growth, and truth.
2. **Write in detail about what you consider to be the two or three most important episodes** in the book. Briefly explain what happens in these episodes, why they are important to the story, and explain your personal reaction to them. In addition, describe what these episodes reveal about the book’s meaning.
3. **Write several entries from the diary of a major character.** The diary should be written in the character’s voice and should reflect his or her reaction to major events in the novel. You may also include visual and design elements that reflect the character’s personality.
4. **Pretend that you are a writer for a magazine like *People* who is interviewing a major character from your book.** Write the transcript of your interview with that character. Use visual and design elements to make your article look the way it would in a magazine. As with all of these projects, you may do this by hand or on a computer.
5. **Explain how a character changes from the beginning to the end of the novel.** Describe at least three specific events and explain how each event affects your character.
6. **Write a newspaper story about an important event in your book.** Be sure to mimic the voice and style of writing from a newspaper like the *Times Herald-Record* or *New York Times*. Use visual and design elements (including pictures) to make your project look like a newspaper article.

7. **Write about a character that you would like to have as a friend.** List at least three character traits (such as honesty) that the character has and support each one by referring to specific details—things the character says or thinks, things she does, descriptions, or things people say about her—that demonstrate these qualities.
8. **Write about a character that you do not approve of.** Analyze three situations from the story to explain what you think is wrong about the character’s actions, behavior, and/or values. Explain why you think the character is acting/thinking that way and what is wrong with their actions/thoughts. What do you suggest as a more favorable response, behavior, or value?

Visual Projects

All visual projects should be done on posterboard (approximately 24 inches x 36 inches large) and should clearly identify the author and title of your book. Visual projects will be graded according to how well they demonstrate an accurate understanding of the book, the quality of execution, and the amount of effort that they reflect. Note that many visual projects also require a short writing assignment.

1. **Create a poster to advertise the book** (similar to a movie poster). **Your poster must include a well-developed paragraph** that powerfully describes why the book is recommended. Other effective elements include meaningful quotes (be sure to identify who said them and to cite the page number for each quote), descriptions or drawings of meaningful events, and identification of the book’s genre and/or themes.
2. **Draw a map** of where the story takes place and label all of the important places. For each place, write a short paragraph that explains its importance. You may include the paragraphs on the map or write them on a separate sheet of paper.
3. **Create a poster of a major character’s profile page for a social networking site.** The profile should include a picture; a list of friends; a quote; a list of likes and dislikes; a recent status update or blog entry; a favorite song, movie or TV show; and so on. **Explain at least six of the items** on your character’s page. *Examples:* “I like the song “Paint it Black” because it reminds me of the time that...” or “I watch *Breaking Bad* because I relate to the way that...” You may include these explanations on your poster or write them on a separate sheet of paper.

Media Projects

Here are your multimedia options:

1. Create a CD with at least eight songs that represent themes, characters, events, symbols, or other elements of the book. Make a cover for the CD and—this part is very important—include a written explanation of how each song relates to specific situations and characters in the book (why you chose each song).
2. Create a book trailer (no longer than three minutes). Although it is targeted to younger readers, the site *www.booktrailersforreaders.com* has many examples you can use for inspiration.

Reader's Choice

If none of these projects is a good fit for you, you may propose a project that uses your unique talents to demonstrate your understanding of the book that you read. If I approve your written proposal, you may do it instead of choosing one of the options on this handout. Be sure to obtain approval of your project well in advance of the final deadline.